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25 Jan. 1955

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

thereafter rejected as unreliable and untrustworthy. Reportedly worked closely with British Secret Service Agent in 1944. Described by former acquaintance as low-level, petty informant. SCHNEIDER presently employed and residing Washington, D. C. Description set out.

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

- AGE, BACKGROUND, and CITIZENSHIP -

[redacted] SCHNEIDER appeared at the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on February 6, 1950 and February 13, 1950, for the purpose of clarifying his position in connection with the possible impersonation of a Bureau employee on his part at McMinnville, Tennessee in January, 1950. He was interviewed at length on February 28, 1950 and March 2, 1950, at which time he volunteered the following information:

SCHNEIDER advised that he was born September 11, 1912, at Rodheim Kreis Wetzlar, Germany; that his father was ALBERT HEINRICH SCHNEIDER and his mother [illegible]. SCHNEIDER advised that his mother, his stepfather, and his brother, [illegible], Forsthausstrasse #16, Frankfurt a/M, are still living in Germany. SCHNEIDER advised that he was married on August 10, 1938 to his wife, [illegible] and was divorced April 28, 1940 at Aachen, Germany. From November 1, 1933 until May 10, 1934, SCHNEIDER stated, he had been in the German Army as a Private First Class and had been engaged in signal work, communications and cryptography during that period at Marburg, Berlin and Wiesbaden. SCHNEIDER stated that he had been active as an athlete while in the Army running the middle distance races, participating in boxing matches, Jiu-Jitsu matches, and was an expert pistol shot. He stated that, following his unsuccessful application for officer candidate training in the German Army and his opposition toward him on the part of confirmed Nazis, he applied for and received a medical discharge on May 10, 1934. SCHNEIDER also advised that during his Army training he had received instructions in German intelligence and counter-espionage work.

SCHNEIDER also stated that he was imprisoned by German authorities in September, 1934 on Nazi charges with suspicion of Espionage and Treason, but was released as insufficient evidence. In September 1936, while

employed as a [illegible] in [illegible] in [illegible] tration. [illegible] Brunold, Belgian, who [illegible] described as head of the [illegible] stated that following their [illegible] he furnished HAUFUYS with [illegible] systems and the use of [illegible] military information concerning [illegible] special codes and war materials being prepared for [illegible] stated that in December 1938, he accepted his first [illegible] ly under HAUFUYS and proceeded into Germany for the Fifth Column [illegible] He stated that on January 23, 1939 he was arrested in Germany by [illegible] detectives who had been alerted by the Gestapo. He was charged with illegal border crossing, with being illegally armed, and with having [illegible] (179 rounds) of ammunition in his possession. SCHNEIDER [illegible] brief struggle he escaped. However, on February 20, 1939, [illegible] that he was recaptured in Frankfurt, Germany, was tried and convicted of assault, illegal border crossing, unauthorized use of an automatic, unauthorized possession of a weapon, and possession of forged papers. He was sentenced for one year and three months for the one year and three months last entered on his previous conviction as a result of his escape from Niders Frisco, but was released on April 18, 1940. On October 23, 1940 SCHNEIDER [illegible] was re-arrested near Marburg on suspicion of Espionage and Sabotage while actively trying to secure the release of Colonel HAUFUYS from a Prisoner of War Camp at Erlangen.

SCHNEIDER states that thereupon he was returned to the prison at Aachen for questioning by the Gestapo, who attempted to prove Espionage on his part. He states that he was then confronted with Colonel HAUFUYS who was at that time a prisoner of war and had been brought to Aachen. SCHNEIDER states that neither he nor HAUFUYS acknowledged recognition of each other and that the Gestapo was not able to prove Espionage on his part despite six months of questioning. He advised that all witnesses in the case died before the case came to trial and that the Volksgerichtshof at Berlin remanded the case for trial by a special Espionage Court at Fez, Northwalla. SCHNEIDER stated that the Court was unable to establish Espionage proof against him, and that he was sentenced in December 1941 to three years imprisonment for having known foreign Espionage Agents and for not having reported them to the proper authorities.

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From November 1943 to February 1944 SCHNEIDER was imprisoned at Aachen, escaped, was recaptured and placed in solitary confinement. Thereafter, having been pronounced a peril to the national security of the German Reich, SCHNEIDER was transferred in April 1944, to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. As an inmate of the latter institution, he was employed at the nearby Heinkel Aircraft Factory, where he claims to have committed sabotage of the aircraft production schedule by changing specifications on aircraft parts blueprints which resulted in damage to planes due to engine vibration. In April 1945 SCHNEIDER was an inmate of Camp Schwarzheide in Eastern Germany, was thereafter transferred to a German occupied clothing factory at Weisdorf, Czechoslovakia, where he was employed until liberated by Russian troops following the flight of S. S. guards at the camp. He then proceeded to Frankfurt A/M, arriving there May 22, 1945.

SCHNEIDER further stated that he then remained in Frankfurt until January, 1947, obtained an Immigration Visa and arrived in New York City aboard the SS Marine Marlin on April 1, 1947. He was thereafter employed as a restaurant employee and chauffeur at New York City and Fairfax, Virginia until April, 1948, at which time he took up residence in Washington, D. C. where he presently resides at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue, Northwest, and is employed as a mechanic in the Body-shop of Emerson and Orme, Incorporated, 17th and M Street, Northwest.

It is noted that at the time of interview, SCHNEIDER had, among others, in his possession, the following documents and certificates of identification:

A copy of birth certificate issued September 23, 1946 by Officials at Rodheim, Germany and reflecting his birth as stated above.

A handwritten document containing the seal of the Belgian Surete de L'Etat and signed by Lieutenant ALBERT DUPEES, A.C.S. - Headquarters, U.S.F.E.T., APO 757, certifying that Mr. ERWIN SCHNEIDER, a resident of Kronprinzstrasse [illegible], Frankfurt A/M, was employed by DUPEES on January 9, 1946, the date on which it was executed.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service reflect that SCHNEIDER executed Application for Immigrant Visa before the United States Consulate at Frankfurt A/M Germany on January 11, 1947. This form reflects that SCHNEIDER, born September 11, 1912, at Rodheim, Germany, previously resided, from his birth to 1929, at Rodheim; from 1929, to 1934 was in the German Army; from 1934 to April, 1935, was at Rodheim; from April, 1935, to December, 1935, was at Frankfurt A/M; from December, 1935 to February, 1939, was at Aachen, Germany (Belgian Secret Service); from December, 1939, to May 1940, was under arrest; from May, 1940, to October, 1940 was at Frankfurt A/M; from October, 1940 to May, 1945, was under arrest in concentration camps; and from May, 1945 to January, 1947, was at Frankfurt A/M. The record also reflects that [illegible] was married on August 23, 1935 to [illegible]

[illegible] on June 8, [illegible] July, [illegible] stated that [illegible] Not his [illegible] Immigrant, 147 [illegible] Immigrant Visa or [illegible] to the United States. [illegible] stated that [illegible] Bronx, New York, and [illegible] was to take up permanent residence. [illegible] from as provided by Presidential [illegible] to his application were copies of [illegible] and divorce certificate, his police [illegible] of report granted by the American Christian [illegible]

[illegible] Immigration Number 2560 was issued to SOMMINER on January [illegible] It was noted therein that he had arrived in the United States aboard the SS Berlin Merlin at the port of New York on April 1, [illegible] as a visitor.

A [illegible] affidavit, executed in behalf of SOMMINER by Miss ALICE [illegible] Secretary for Displaced Persons, Church World Service Incorporated, [illegible] 21st Street, New York City, dated March 20, 1948, advised that following his arrival in the United States, SOMMINER was housed at a reception room of the [illegible] until May 10, 1947, when he occupied a room at the Cornish Arms Hotel, New York City, where he remained until about June 5, 1947. At that time he [illegible] furnished room at 17 East 43th Street, New York City, and on or about [illegible] 1947, he occupied a furnished room at 119 West 77th Street, New York City, where he remained until September 9, 1947. On June 4, 1947, SOMMINER [illegible] food cooker at Ben Yonger's Restaurant, 123 West 43th Street, New York City. He was paid $30 per week and left on August 1, 1947. On September [illegible] he was employed as a cutter by Mr. JOSEPH WILLARD, who maintained [illegible] at Lyons Hill, Fairfax, Virginia, and at Blue Sutton Place, New York City, SOMMINER resided at which our residence Mr. WILLARD occupied [illegible] per month plus maintenance. It was stated that his services were satisfactory to Mr. WILLARD. It was noted that the Church World Service paid SOMMINER $145.50 for his transportation to this country and $100.00 for [illegible] 30 each, including his first two months in the United States.

[illegible]

[illegible] first paper, [illegible] 16, 1945.

[illegible] It is noted [illegible] is considered [illegible] 1-3 that [illegible] told people in Frankfort [illegible] Russia [illegible], while interned [illegible] a treaty in the camp Hidden [illegible] political prisoners in a spiritual and was rejected [illegible]

[illegible] ACTIVITIES IN [illegible] OF [illegible] DURING WORLD WAR II

It is to note here that [illegible], in describing his various [illegible] has had had regard in mind work, [illegible] received a radical discharge from the Korean military [illegible]

[illegible] It is observed that Counterintelligence Internal, I-3, of [illegible], stated that [illegible] had joined the [illegible] been a contact via radio operator, and [illegible] left of disagreement with the S. S., and [illegible]

[illegible] It also noted that in 1933, the [illegible] said in any code to a agent of a [illegible] to stop to Hilder, but was approached [illegible] Russia to a Frankfort Police Problem. The [illegible] Jews to let a barge be were [illegible] that the Nuremberg [illegible] radio or telegram operator in the [illegible] the Nuremberg Gestapo-Jews.

[illegible] said, radio in the (Gestapo) [illegible] discovered by the [illegible] to the year in a [illegible]

[illegible]

It is noted that [illegible], in the court of [illegible] of prohibited activity in behalf of Belgian [illegible] above, has specifically denied any illegal activities of [illegible] power.

With regard to his activities with the Belgian [illegible], it is noted that SCHRUNER has stated that he had contact with following individuals:

(Lieutenant) [illegible] of the Belgian [illegible] Volkmarsdit, near Paper, who helped SCHRUNER to [illegible] and to avoid customs inspection while engaged in illegal [illegible]

COSTAMAGNA, a Belgian national, former member of the Belgian Corps Diplomatique. According to SCHRUNER he was formerly [illegible], was arrested for illegal border crossing with large sum of money on [illegible] with SCHRUNER at Aachen, Germany in December 1937. [illegible] at Brussels in December 1938 and claims that on one occasion he and [illegible] diplomatic papers while engaged on a mission.

Lt. [illegible], Inspector of the Belgian Gendarmerie, who following the Allied occupation of Germany was [illegible] Liaison Officer, c/o 101 Headquarters, Unit, APO 757, [illegible]. According to SCHRUNER, [illegible] was an agent of the Belgian Counterintelligence during the war, and while serving as a police officer in a mill town in Northern Belgium during the Nazi occupation still worked secretly as an officer of the Carte Blanche, the Belgian anti-Nazi underground.

SCHRUNER claimed to have worked with [illegible] again in Frankfurt, Germany from 1945 to 1946 and states that Lt. [illegible] can vouch for the authenticity of the information furnished by SCHRUNER.

Colonel MURRAY, head of the Belgian [illegible] opinion), was described by [illegible] SCHNEIDER claims that he [illegible] in Germany by calling [illegible] in Germany introduced to [illegible] and introduced the manager to [illegible] SCHNEIDER stated that during the period [illegible] known in the course of his intelligence work [illegible] EARLY EARLE which, he maintains, are reflected in his [illegible] in Germany. SCHNEIDER stated that he also used other [illegible] occasion, but cannot recall them.

Captain BALL, former Captain in the [illegible] assigned to the Belgian Intelligence, was the [illegible] to racial prejudice on the part of Belgian officials. [illegible] BALL to Belgium in January 1940 for the Belgian [illegible]

Captain [illegible], of [illegible] with Colonel MURRAY, checked SCHNEIDER for Belgian [illegible] at Brussels in 1938. SCHNEIDER claims that he was [illegible] by the Gestapo at Aachen in June or July 1940 at [illegible] recognition of the other. SCHNEIDER stated that [illegible] was also [illegible] a prisoner of War and had formerly served in Belgian [illegible] British Intelligence at Liege. Records maintained [illegible] T-2, reflected no information concerning Colonel [illegible] MURRAY.

SCHNEIDER also stated in connection with his [illegible] in Germany, that he had taken out a office of the [illegible] 1938 in Brussels and that this officer requested [illegible] German Football. SCHNEIDER stated that he assumed [illegible] in providing details of the football [illegible] this French officer in Brussels without [illegible] proffered by this officer. SCHNEIDER stated that he [illegible] Intelligence in any other manner by him.

SCHNEIDER's Activities [illegible]

It is recalled that [illegible] following his return to Belgium [illegible] with the United States Army Counter Intelligence [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] to the fulfillment performed by SOMMER [illegible] 1) it is noted that SOMMER has stated [illegible] of Friday complete files concerning the [illegible] of the Red Underground, both film and [illegible] stated that Colonel MUFUN would furnish his [illegible] the details of each underground activities, upon [illegible] of Bulgarian Intelligence Service. He also stated that Colonel MUFUN would furnish him the information in view of the SUBJECT's [illegible] as one occasion by corroborating a story told by MIRUNS to the Police. The MUFUN was questioned concerning some spurious reports.

Confidential Informant T-2 has advised that its records reflect that Mr. [illegible] was connected with the Bulgarian Liaison Section U. S. Zone of Germany there he was on temporary duty engaged in screening displaced persons.

It has been ascertained also from Confidential Informant T-2, that no record was available to that agency which would indicate that the SUBJECT was ever employed by the CIC. Confidential Informant T-4 who was familiar with SOMMER's activities in Frankfurt in 1945, advised that several contacts had been made by CIC personnel with the subject in October, 1946, due to the fact that SOMMER had stated he was in contact with individuals who had considerable knowledge concerning the whereabouts of MARTIN BORMANN. T-4 further stated that it was his recollection that SOMMER was authorized only to establish contact with one of the individuals, and that, following such contact, he was "cared out of the picture" because he was considered unreliable and untrustworthy. The same informant also stated that SOMMER's claim regarding the activities and location of

[illegible] SOMOZA's alleged complicity with [illegible] of the coup in Managua in 1948.

[illegible] SOMOZA's [illegible] Army pertaining to SOMOZA's [illegible] Intelligence Service. The [illegible] SOMOZA concerning Lull and [illegible] Fort Ur Army were [illegible]. The [illegible] of the [illegible] Lull Little [illegible] could be attached to any [illegible] of SOMOZA in this regard [illegible] of U-2's [illegible] SOMOZA's activities [illegible] to the effect that the SUBJECT was "at best a low-level, fully hidden [illegible]."

[illegible] of 1-2, [illegible] Army, reflect that Coordinator [illegible] 1-1 stated that Army that SOMOZA, upon the termination of [illegible], was able to deny in secret bloodlust transactions in [illegible] of Philly as a result of his political protection status, to [illegible] repeatedly, was never [illegible]. 1-1 observed that SOMOZA conducted [illegible] with Communist Party Leaders of the Social and Political Participation Office in Fredfort, Army, "with them he was on friendly terms."

[illegible] Informant, 1-1, has also volunteered information to the [illegible] SOMOZA told many people that he, the SUBJECT, had been the [illegible] in 1948, had sold highly secret atomic plans to the American and [illegible] of which the United States was able to develop the atom bomb.

SOMOZA, he also stated during interview, that as [illegible], probably [illegible] in the Dutch Guiana area. According to SOMOZA, [illegible] of the SUBJECT's unknown [illegible] SOMOZA [illegible] transactions and in [illegible] Florida region to be next to Palestine [illegible] SUBJECT [illegible] SOMOZA's other [illegible] Fredfort into in 1948. According to SOMOZA [illegible] of the occasion by a French Intelligence [illegible] SOMOZA could not recall. SOMOZA stated [illegible] in civilian clothes [illegible] SUBJECT's [illegible] he was also in right hand [illegible] SUBJECT [illegible] he really took his hand [illegible] officer also inquired of SOMOZA [illegible] on the Dutch Guiana in Fredfort.

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[illegible]

[illegible] SCHUMMER [illegible] to his [illegible] to [illegible] espionage. [illegible] could [illegible] [illegible] visited a typewriter to all in police [illegible] already stamped, for reason [illegible] at Zellbach, for [illegible] stated that [illegible] KREISMAN, believed SCHUMMER to be generally and actively [illegible] market operations.

MISCELLANEOUS

In speaking of his alleged service with the United States Army Counter Intelligence Corps in Germany in 1945, SCHUMMER stated that his [illegible] and his activities were known to Lieutenant Colonel STEVENS, in OSS headquarters, Camp Holabird, Baltimore, Maryland.

In this regard Lieutenant Colonel R. D. STEVENS, Assistant Commandant of the Counter Intelligence Corps School, Camp Holabird, Baltimore, Maryland, advised on April 13, 1950, that he was not acquainted with SCHUMMER prior to December 11, 1947, and that he could not comment on SCHUMMER's reliability nor could he comment on SCHUMMER's alleged activities with the Counter Intelligence Corps and his alleged service with Colonel MURPHY of Military Intelligence of the Belgian Second Section. Colonel STEVENS explained that on December 11, 1947, he had received a letter from SCHUMMER requesting an interview. He added that as he recalled, it was not until January, 1949 that SCHUMMER visited his office and implied that he was seeking a job as a Counter Intelligence Corps agent. STEVENS stated that he told SCHUMMER that such a job could not be obtained through him, Colonel STEVENS, but would have to be obtained through Counter Intelligence Corps authorities in the European Command. Colonel STEVENS added that to his knowledge he had no further contact with SCHUMMER.

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CONFIDENTIAL

SCHERRER's description, as obtained from papers in his possession and from observation, is as follows:

COLOR	:	White
AGE	:	38 (Born September 11, 1923, Munich, Germany)
HEIGHT	:	5'9"
WEIGHT	:	155 pounds
HAIR	:	Dark brown, straight, receding
EYES	:	Blue
COMPLEXION	:	Sallow
FEATURES	:	Sharp
MARITAL STATUS	:	Divorced
OCCUPATION	:	Chauffeur & automobile mechanic
NATIONALITY	:	German

- CLOSED -